the validity of DRT Act was the principal reason for accumulation of arrears at that time. Eventually, the Act was held as a valid piece of legislation by the Supreme Court in March, 2002.

(c) The functioning of the DRT's was recently reviewed by the Government and with a view to improve the DRT system, some amendments in the Act and Rules are under process.

(d) As per available information, a sum of Rs. 16,903 crore have been recovered through DRTs till 31.3.2005.

Review of disinvestment of companies

2264. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government propose to review the disinvestment of a number of companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number thereof; and

(c) the number of loss making companies closed during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) In keeping with the National Common Minimum Programme guidelines, in the case of 13 profitable Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) *viz*, Manganese Ore India Limited, Sponge Iron India Limited, Shipping Corporation of India Limited, National Aluminum Company Limited, National Building Construction Corporation Limited, National Fertilizers Limited, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Engineers India Limited, Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Engineering projects India Limited, Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited and State Trading Corporation of India Limited, It has been decided to formally call off the process of *disinvestment through Strategic Sale*, approved earlier.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.